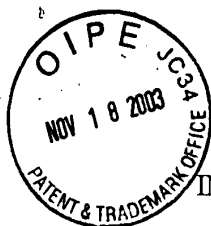


AF 11763

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-264001 / US4594



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yonezawa, et al.
Serial No. : 09/777,280
Filed : February 5, 2001
Title : CONVEYOR DEVICE AND FILM FORMATION APPARATUS FOR A FLEXIBLE SUBSTRATE

Art Unit : 1763
Examiner : Luz L. Alejandro

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS IN REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 18, 2003

Claims 1-15 are pending, with claims 1, 3, 10 and 13 being independent. Claims 13-15 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 10 and 12 have been rejected as being anticipated by Brown. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Brown does not describe or suggest a flexible substrate that "has a concave surface in contact with said plurality of cylindrical rollers and a convex surface opposite to said concave surface," as recited in claim 10. The Action indicates that the uppermost wheels on opposite sides of the apparatus of Brown are in contact with a concave surface of the substrate. While this is correct, each of those wheels is in contact with a separate concave surface, and those concave surfaces are separated by a convex surface. Accordingly, Brown does not describe or suggest "a concave surface in contact with *said plurality* of cylindrical rollers."

Claims 1-12 have been rejected as being obvious over Brown in view of admitted prior art and Misiano, or as being obvious over the admitted prior art in view of Brown and Misiano.

With respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because, as discussed in the prior response, neither Brown, the admitted prior art, Misiano, nor any combination of these describes or suggests a flexible substrate that is "in contact with each of the plurality of cylindrical rollers with a wrap angle kept positive to create a force in a direction pressing the flexible substrate against the plurality of cylindrical rollers," as recited in claim 1. The Action attempts to address this failure of the prior art by stating that the arrangement shown in Brown's Fig. 7 is similar to the arrangement